

Santa Rosa County  
Emergency Medical System (EMS) Task Force Meeting  
May 16, 2000  
4:00 P M

Hunter Walker, County Administrator called meeting to order and welcomed the EMS Task Force and others in attendance.

Walker asked each member of the Task Force to introduce themselves.

Task Force Members Present:

Bob Murphy, Baptist Hospital  
Dominic Persichini, Rural Metro Ambulance Service  
John E. Rebel, Chief of Milton Fire Department  
David Burnett, Chief of Midway Fire Department  
Tony Simmons, Chief of Jay Fire Department  
Dr. Mathews, Santa Rosa County Medical Center  
Bobby Busby, Pace Volunteer Fire Department  
Bob Minshull, Chief of Gulf Breeze Volunteer Fire Department

Walker introduced the staff members present:

Sheryl Bracewell, Manager of Emergency Communications Center  
Mr. Dave Ling, Director of Emergency Management  
Peggy McDonald, Administrative Assistant of Emergency Management  
Bill Gilbert, Public Information Officer

Walker recommended Chief John Rebel to serve as chairman of the EMS Task Force. Upon his recommendation he also added that Chief Rebel had previously served as Chairman of the Fire Task Force. Without any objection or decent, the members of the Task Force elected Chief Rebel unanimously.

Chief Rebel asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for Vice Chairman.

Dominic Persichini nominated Robert Murphy as Vice Chairman and without any objection or decent Murphy was elected unanimously Vice Chairman.

Walker provided an information package to the task force members that included an agenda, the Fitch Report, and a notification memorandum. The memorandum included the names of the task force members and the purpose of the EMS Task Force.

Walker said the main objective of the EMS Task Force which consists of a two-tier system, is to improve the system. The two parts of the system are first responders and the ambulance service.

Walker, along with the task force members, reviewed the Fitch Report, and asked if there were any questions.

Murphy asked for a copy of the Fire Service Task Report to review. Maybe this would be help for the EMS Task Force.

Chief Rebel stated that from the Fire Service Task Force report that he feels that the newly created task force will present a similar format and it would be very important to review the Fire Service Task Force Report in preparation of the EMS Task Force's goal.

The last document in the packet is the information from the American Ambulance Association of Effective Ambulance Service that Ms. Bracewell felt would be effective in the program. Walker stated that this could also be a guideline and glossary for the new program.

Walker stated at the next meeting he would like to have Wright present to give a summary and information of the Fitch Report to inform the Task Force Committee of its services and what it will provide for Santa Rosa County.

Walker also stated that information presented by Wright will help define a long term goal for the task force.

Murphy asked about the 4 to 6 minutes time for responding mentioned in the Fitch Report by Wright. He ask that Wright bring more detail information at the next meeting, to see if this is the right direction to go with her recommendation.

Walker stated that Wright would have the information at her fingertips and would explain the report in a detail manner.

Chief Rebel said that the report is very important to the citizens and they should be informed about the report.

Walker stated that the citizen's involvement would be part of the process and is very important to have the citizen's input.

Chief Rebel said that it would be good to have the citizens input and interest, and it would be a big help and assistance to the Task Force Committee to serve the County better for quicker response time.

Chief Tony Simmons stated it is very important to have urban and rural input. He said he is from the North end of the County and having citizen's input is very important.

Richard Collins a citizen from Chumuckla asked to speak. He said you cannot get the general public to the meetings. He suggested the County set up E-mail account for computers through Dave Ling's office just for the EMS Task Force. He also suggested setting up Emergency Medical Services and Fire Departments at Sheriffs Office

Substations or calling it Public Safety Substations at 3 locations, Berrydale, Chumuckla and Navarre. Combining substations with Fire Departments, Sheriffs Office and Medical Service could cut down on response time.

Kay Martin a citizen at 6000 Dixonville Road, Jay, Fl, stated she would like to speak because of a citizen that recently needed help. She and her husband would like to meet with the EMS Task Force and tell their feelings and maybe other people would like to meet with them.

Martin said they lost their daughter recently in an auto accident in Jay. One problem she is concerned about is family being notified when an accident occurs. She explained how she was notified of her daughter's accident. She said she realizes that the patient is the first priority but then the family should be notified as soon as possible. Martin said her daughter had ID and phone numbers in her wallet where her parents could be notified in case of an emergency and no one bothered to look in her wallet for the phone numbers. She said the school called her at work after they heard of the accident and told her that her daughter was being transported by Lifeflight to the hospital in Pensacola. She said maybe a Highway Patrol could get in touch with the family or someone at the scene could get in touch with them. She said she and her husband would like to meet with them any time.

Chief Rebel thanked Ms. Martin. He explained Highway Patrol is at accidents. The responders do not get a report on how the family receives services of being notified. He said they should examine whole picture because of the need to notify family or guardian of a patient is very important.

Chief Simmons told Martin he was at the scene of her daughter's accident and said the Highway Patrol was there also and he would be glad to talk to her concerning her daughter's accident after the meeting.

Steve Mraz, Safety Director of Sterling Fibers, stated that the two tier system for the County is the right approach but, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department, The City Police Departments should be included on the EMS Task Force Panel where 911 Services and volunteer fire departments are involved.

Chief Rebel told Steve Marz his point was valid because law enforcement is sometimes the first responder.

Chief Burnett recommended a representative from the Gulf Breeze City Police be added to the panel of the EMS Task Force.

Chief Simmons also recommended adding someone from the Sheriffs Department to the panel.

Walker and the EMS Task Force Committee discussed the time and location for the next meeting. They agreed on a monthly meeting held at the EOC and date and time would be announced at a later date.

Chief Rebel stated at the next meeting hopefully Wright could be present and have more data available. Maybe she has been to other counties to do reports on ambulance services and she could give them some input on what other counties are doing and they could possibly use this data to help them with their report.

Walker asked the committee to write or e-mail him of any questions or comments for Wright for the next meeting.

Walker said there would be notice in the newspaper of the next meeting.

Chief Rebel added he felt that the EMS Task Force Committee should be active three or more months. This would give them more time to look at the system.

Dominic Persichini stated that the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council would like to keep the EMS Task Force Committee active quarterly.

Chief Rebel stated that if the County Commissioners could continue the EMS Task Force Committee because there are always a need to review and improve programs.

Sheryl Bracewell gave Chief Rebel her phone number and said if she could be of help to the EMS Task Force Committee to call her. She also provided the Committee with more documents. Documents provided were:

1. Agreement for Ambulance and Emergency and Non-Emergency Medical Services
2. Response Time Compliance Report for 04/01/2000 through 04/30/200
3. EMS and Post Assignment
4. Shift Hours by Unit by Day
5. EMS Changes Following the Fitch Report
6. EMS Survey by Population
7. ECC Monthly Report

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

